

RECENT FORM

Our last two home games were of vital importance to the league championship race and in both matches the team came out and rose to the occasion and registered fine victories. Barking were the first team in line for defeat. Coming with a record of played four and won four, it took an all-out effort from Hendon to take maximum points. In a first half that lasted a little over one hour, through a broken goal stanchion and injury to two Barking players, Hendon went in at the interval leading, thanks to a Bobby Childs penalty kick. In the second half Hendon held their own and Eggie James, coming on for Tony Amos, increased the score just before full time following a neat Hendon build-up. Last Tuesday evening before a much improved attendance of just over 1,000, Hendon renewed battle with Wycombe Wanderers. Forced on the defensive for much of the first period, Hendon held on well, and in the second half fought their way superbly back into the game. Rod Haider gave his side the lead with a fine shot from just inside the penalty area and Bobby Childs forced home the advantage, capitalising on a defensive error to head home Hendon's second goal. Hendon played some excellent football in the second period and could well have increased their lead with that little bit of extra luck that is always needed. For both games Bill Fisher kept an unchanged side—meaning that both John and Tony Fields kept their places in preference to Mickey Cooper and Dave Yerby. Following the Wycombe game Hendon moved up the table to second place behind Sutton on goal difference but with the same number of points.

CHAMPIONS TAMED

Tues 9/9/55

Hendon 2
Wycombe Wanderers 0

SOME of the "natives" were a little restless on the terraces of Hendon's Claremont Road ground on Tuesday as Rothmans Isthmian League champions Wycombe Wanderers were plummeting to a 2-0 defeat. A gaggle of young, obviously Wycombe supporters, roamed Indian file, menacingly around the ground, scraping sticks against the corrugated iron walls on the popular side.

They edged past the Hendon supporters, packed behind the Wycombe goal, and stood chatting in a group, as if in council, before wandering back to the car park end.

After the game, a tremendously exciting encounter, a Wycombe coach was found to be damaged. The culprits could not be found. It was just another incident in the brushes between Wycombe and Hendon supporters in recent years.

Senseless

The senseless action was an anti-climax to the match, in which Hendon finally dispelled arguments that they were a bad second-half team.

They rose magnificently to the occasions. Often outrun by Wycombe in the furious pace of the first period, Hendon grew in stature after a superb goal by skipper Rod Haider had put them ahead five minutes after the interval.

Haider, featured in the Guinness Book of Records as England's most capped amateur with 65 appearances for his country, displayed his remarkable skills as he scored the vital opening goal.

He was confronted by the formidable duo of Paul Birdseye and Howard Kennedy when, with almost a flick of his talented body, he wrong-footed the two defenders and angled his shot past goalkeeper John Maskell into the right-hand corner of the net.

Hendon, who survived first-half scares when Brian Stevens almost headed a long throw by Kennedy into his own goal and Malcolm Dalrymple was able to scramble a header from Derek Harris off the line, were now masters of the champions.

Improved

Bobby Childs improved Hendon's lead after 62 minutes, heading home a second attempt, after a strong run down the right by Johnny Baker and a helping nudge on by Tony Field.

Childs had appeals for a penalty turned down when he appeared to be fouled by substitute Graham MacKenzie in the area and Johnny Baker just

failed to notch up a £40 bonus goal when his header rolled across the front of the bar, with Maskell beaten. Childs hurriedly stabbed the rebound just wide.

Over a thousand spectators, Hendon's biggest league gate for a year, were treated to a splendid exhibition of football. There was hardly a foul, and not a sign of disagreement by the players.

Hendon moved up to second place in the league table, level on points (18) with Sutton United and Dulwich Hamlet and two ahead of Wycombe, who slipped to sixth position.

Hendon: M. Dalrymple, J. Field, G. Hand, B. Stevens, A. Phillips, R. Haider, A. Field, D. Matchick, R. Childs, J. Baker, A. Amos. Substitute: E. James.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Eaton, K. Mead, J. Delaney, T. Reardon, D. Evans, H. Kennedy (withdrawn), D. Harris, M. Hollifield, T. Horseman. Substitute: G. MacKenzie.